WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A relaying apparatus for use in a network system, which network system is formed with a plurality of client terminals and server terminals providing services to those client terminals via a network, comprising:

a plurality of route load measuring units each provided in the vicinity of each of said server terminals and each measures a respective load in the route up to one client terminal having issued a request for service out of said client terminals; and

a selecting unit which selects one server terminal out of said server terminals as a destination of the request for service from said one client terminal based on the route load measured by said route load measuring units.

2.   The relaying apparatus for used in a network system according to Claim 1 further comprises a storing unit which store a route load measured at a pre-specified time interval by each of said route load measuring units up to said one client terminal; and

when a request for service is received from said one client terminal, said selecting unit selects said one server terminal out of said server terminals as a destination of the request for service from said one client terminal based on the route load stored in the storing unit.

3.   The relaying apparatus for use in a network system according to Claim 2; wherein each of said route load measuring units monitors the operating states of respective server terminal; and

5   when a request for service is received from said one client terminal, said selecting unit selects one server terminal out of said server terminals as a destination of the request for service from said one client terminal based on the route load and the operating states monitored by said load

10   measuring units.

4.   A relaying apparatus for use in a network system, which network system is formed with a plurality of client terminals and server terminals divided into several groups providing

15   services to those client terminals via a network, comprising:

      a plurality of route load measuring units each provided with respect to each of the groups and each measures a respective load in the route up to one client terminal having issued a request for service out of said client terminals; and

20   a selecting unit which selects one route load measuring units out of said route load measuring units as a primary destination of the request for service from said one client terminal based on the route load measured by said route load measuring units; wherein said one route load measuring unit

25   selects one server terminal out of the several server terminals

64

in the group as a secondary destination of the request for service from said one client terminal.

5.   The relaying apparatus for use in a network system according to Claim 4; wherein each of said route load measuring units monitors the operating states of respective server terminal; and said one route load measuring unit select one server terminal out of the several server terminals in the group based on the operating states when selecting a secondary destination of the request for service from said one client terminal.

6.   A relaying apparatus for use in a network system, which network system is formed with a plurality of client terminals and server terminals divided into several groups providing services to those client terminals via a network, comprising:

a plurality of route load measuring units each provided with respect to each of the groups, each measures a respective load in the route up to one client terminal having issued a request for service out of said client terminals and monitors the operating state of said server terminals in each group; and

a selecting unit which selects one route load measuring units out of said route load measuring units as a primary destination of the request for service from said one client terminal based on the route load measured and operating state

65

monitored by said route load measuring units; wherein said one

route load measuring unit selects based on the operating state

one server terminal out of the several server terminals in the

group as a secondary destination of the request for service from

5   said one client terminal.